

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 314156
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AF - WESCHAUFLE, JR.
S/S -PSEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 314156

NODIS
FOR AMBASSADOR LOW ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, RH, US

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO MARK CHONA'S CONCERNS ABOUT
RICHARD'S VISIT AND THE RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA
CONFERENCE

REF: LUSAKA 3453

WITH REGARD TO CHONA'S CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN
LUSAKA 3453, YOU MAY RESPOND AS FOLLOWS:

WE ARE UNAWARE OF CAMPAIGN TO POSTPONE THE
RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND WE APPRE-
CIATE CHONA'S DESIRE THAT CONFERENCE BE RECONVENED
ON JANUARY 17, AS SCHEDULED. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT
BRITISH INTEND TO COMPLY WITH THIS SCHEDULE IF AT
ALL POSSIBLE. THE BEST WAY TO ASSURE THIS IS FOR
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ALL PARTIES TO RESPOND CONSTRUCTIVELY AND REALISTICALLY
TO RICHARD'S EFFORTS TO BRIDGE THE GAP SEPARATING
THE PARTIES.

WITH REGARD TO CHONA'S DESIRE THAT RICHARD
ARRIVE WITH A SPECIFIC AND DETAILED PROPOSAL, IT

IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT HE WILL BE PRESENTING
QUITE CONCRETE IDEAS WHICH, HOPEFULLY, WILL SERVE
AS A BASIS FOR A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL. WE UNDERSTAND
CHONA'S CONCERN, BUT, IN THE INTEREST OF SETTLEMENT,
WE SEE ADVANTAGE TO AGREEMENT GROWING OUT OF CONSUL-
TATIVE PROCESS RATHER THAN USING SPECIFIC PROPOSAL
WHICH RISKS REJECTION BY ONE SIDE OR OTHER AND MAKES
NEGOTIATING PROCESS MORE DIFFICULT.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT RICHARD WILL BE ARRIVING
IN LUSAKA ON DECEMBER 31 AND NO DOUBT THE ZAMBIANS
WILL WISH TO CONVEY THEIR VIEWS DIRECTLY TO RICHARD.

ROBINSON

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